



NEGOTIATIONS 2010

NÉGOCIATIONS



DECEMBER



NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VANCOUVER, MAY 2010

Negotiations December 8 and 9

Storm clouds on the horizon

The employer opened this session of negotiations by announcing its intention to move forward with two-tiered bargaining discussions. The bargaining committee believes this is a positive development. However, we will need discussions with the employer about process and agenda items.

The Treasury Board negotiator continues to ask us to focus on what he calls our “big ticket” items. We explained to him that all our demands are important to us as mandated by the members of UCCO-SACC-CSN and that we have tabled a complete package on behalf of our members.

It appears that the employer is not as open to certain items as we might have originally believed. On many occasions the employer used terms such as, “not likely” and, “can’t see that happening.” The employer asked for further clarification on some items. We provided clarification and provided a complete overview of our negotiation project, with emphasis on article 17, which pertains to discipline.

The employer, for its part, tabled some surprise

items that had never before been suggested, much less provided in writing. The TB negotiator indicated that they are very interested in the removal of voluntary severance pay, but once again, hadn’t tabled anything about this subject in writing.

We were completely surprised at the employer’s suggestion to move appendix K for discussion over to the Global Agreement table. Further to this, the employer tabled very regressive language on, among others, article 14.13 – including a demand to grant the employer discretionary powers over union leave for union training, which would take us back to a previous century.

The bargaining committee feels that this nonchalant manner of tabling items out of nowhere, instead of putting a complete package on the table at the beginning of the process, is disrespectful to the long-established traditions of collective bargaining and to the members of UCCO-SACC-CSN.

The next negotiation session is scheduled for February 8, 9 and 10.